## STATE of WISCONSIN



WHEREAS; Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by cell degeneration in the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS; the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the muscles, especially those of the extremities, and, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking, breathing, and muscle atrophy with the patient becoming a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS; ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions; and

WHEREAS; ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, and, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS; research indicates that military veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS, prompting the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a presumption of a military service connection with ALS; and

WHEREAS; a national ALS patient registry, administered by the Centers for Disease Control, is identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may become the single largest ALS research project ever created;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as

## ALS AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

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IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019.

TONY EVERS GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE Secretary of State